

CONDITIONS ARE GROWING BETTER

BUSINESS MEN DISCERN MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE.

INDULGE IN OPTIMISTIC TALK

Present Period Marks Turn of Tide in Declining Prices and Liquidation.

New York.—When bankers, manufacturers and business men generally are optimistic regarding the business and financial future, it is right and proper that Mr. Average Man should also feel more cheerful.

Big men, leaders of business and of business thought, have not hesitated to talk optimistically.

Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel corporation, says: "In my judgment, there is no difficult situation to overcome. Notwithstanding the most disagreeable features of our daily life, of which we hear or read, we have passed through or out of them, or nearly so. We are rapidly returning to more normal conditions."

W. P. G. Harding, head of the national federal reserve system, also sees cause for optimism. Mr. Harding says:

"The readjustments which have taken place in this country, painful as they have been attended with less privation, less unemployment and have been less severe than in other countries where the expansion of bank credit and currency has been proportionately greater, and the prospect for revival is also far better here than elsewhere."

Charles H. Sabin, president of the Guaranty Trust company, the largest institution of its kind in the world, says:

"It is the feeling of the officers of the Guaranty Trust company that this period marks the turn of the tide in declining prices and of liquidation. Although many readjustments are yet to be made in the months and years to come, there is every reasonable assurance of an early return to normal business conditions, to stabilized prices, to easier money and to larger business opportunities. We face the present with satisfaction and the future with confidence."

Bankers draw attention to enormous financial resources. The annual retail trade exceeds \$1,000,000,000, while the wholesale trade is easily \$2,000,000,000. These figures, says Guy Emerson, vice president of the National Bank of Commerce of New York, "represent a public demand for food, clothing, transportation, housing and a great variety of the necessities and conveniences of life. This demand is the outstanding factor in appraising the soundness of the business situation during 1921."

Sea Monster Found.
Miami, Fla.—Scientists and deep water fishermen here are puzzled over the finding of a huge sea monster off Soldier's key, a few miles south of Miami, which they are unable to name. The body of the creature was found three weeks ago by Elmer E. Garretson, of Huntington, L. I., New York, who towed part of it to Miami. The fragment is 50 feet long and 7 feet wide. Mr. Garretson said he did not know how long the monster was, but he saw as much as 80 feet of it. Sharks were devouring the flesh when he first found it.

Road Builders Seek Reductions.
Chicago.—The full strength of the American Road Builders' association will be put behind a demand to reduce immediately freight rates on gravel, sand, cement, stone, brick and other materials used in road building when consigned to officials or contractors for actual use in such construction. Resolutions calling on the interstate commerce commission and other bodies to reduce the rates were adopted at the closing session of the association.

Deputy Sheriff Slain.
Shenandoah, Ia.—Deputy Sheriff Burt Patton, 45, was instantly killed in a pistol duel with two highwaymen at Bingham, five miles from here. The two bandits held up a crap game in the railroad yards here and were followed by the deputy sheriff and City Marshal J. P. Garrett. A posse is being formed to continue the hunt.

House Rivers Bill Reported.
Washington, D. C.—The house rivers and harbors bill, carrying a lump appropriation of \$15,250,000, was reported favorably to the senate by the commerce committee, without amendment.

Fruit and Vegetables Low.
New York.—Wholesale prices for fruits and vegetables are so low in the New York market that many farmers who shipped produce here received nothing in return but a bill for the balance due on freight charges. Dr. H. H. Porter, state commissioner of foods and markets, declared in a statement. Even with prices at pre-war levels the people are eating less than usual, he added. Farmers and wholesalers, he said, believe this condition due to the retail trade not giving the benefit of low prices to the public.

H. M. WURZBACH



H. M. Wurzbach of Seguin, Tex., is one of the newly elected congressmen. He is a Republican.

FOR BIG U. S. NAVY

Senate Body Rejects Bill Proposing Suspension.

Committee Report Holds Warships Constitute First Line of Nation's Defense.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Until the United States has a navy second to none, or an agreement for universal disarmament is reached, construction of fighting ships should be pushed relentlessly, the senate naval affairs committee advised in its report rejecting the Borch resolution proposing a six months' suspension of the building program.

Nothing has developed to convince experts that the capital ship or battleship is no longer the backbone of the fleet, the report declares. To temporarily halt their construction, it asserts, would not only result in the loss of between \$15,000,000 and \$25,000,000 to the government, but would weaken the nation's defense and increase the danger of attack.

"Situated as is the United States," the report reads, "with oceans separating it from other great powers its first line of defense must necessarily be its navy, and so long as it has a battle fleet which can hold the sea power and the fact that without it we would be at the mercy of the other nations, it is the opinion of the committee that this country should maintain a navy at least equal to that of any other power."

"The lessons of history teach us we cannot afford to depend for maintenance of our rights, and the lives and commerce of our citizens upon the mercy or good will of other powers with rival and conflicting interests or ambitions."

The report which was prepared by Senator Poindexter closes the controversy over the allegation that the development of the submarine and airplane had rendered the battleship obsolete.

TO PASS SOLDIER BONUS BILL

American Legion Officials Assured of National Legislation by Senator Penrose.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The soldier bonus bill will pass congress this session. Assurance to this effect was given the national legislative committee of the American Legion by Senator Penrose, Chairman Gilbert Bettman of the committee stated: "There may be a few taxation features of the bill altered, Senator Penrose told me." Mr. Bettman said, "but we were given to understand by him that the bill in its substance is satisfactory to congressional leaders. It is not thought likely that any of the alternative plans of compensation will be altered or that the scale of amounts will be changed."

INDIANA LAD IS EXECUTED

Efforts of Hoosier Senators Fail to Save Jesse Walker From Electric Chair.

Ossining, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Last minute efforts, it is said, of Senators Calder, New, Stanley, and Watson and ex-Senator Beveridge failing to obtain a reprieve, Jesse Walker, twenty, Evansville, Ind., a sailor during the war, was put to death as he smoked a cigar in the electric chair at Sing Sing. He was convicted of killing Samuel Wolchak, a stationer, in an attempted robbery on November 3, 1918.

Resigns as Canal Governor.

Panama, Feb. 14.—Col. Chester Harding, governor of the Panama canal zone, called for the United States. His resignation and departure leaves Col. Jay J. Morrow as acting governor.

\$30,000 Liquor Is Seized.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 14.—Liquor said to be worth more than \$30,000 was seized by agents of the state food and drug department in a raid in an exclusive district here. Walter Lange was arrested.

\$35,000,000,000 GERMANY'S LIMIT

Berlin Paper Says Sum Will Be Offered as Reparations Maximum.

MAY ASK U. S. AS ARBITER

Refusal to Allow Consideration of the German Counter-Proposal Would Result in Teutons' Absence From Conference.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—The ministry of finance has reached the conclusion that the utmost sum Germany can pay in reparations is 150,000,000,000 marks [\$35,700,000,000, estimating the mark at normal (gold), 23.8 cents], this including all she has so far paid in cash and goods, according to information which the Deutsch Zeitung says it has received from a "special" source.

This 150,000,000,000 marks would be paid off in 30 years, under the plan outlined by the newspaper's informant, who also is quoted as declaring that the proposal to pay it would be submitted to the authorities at Paris for the purpose of learning whether the London conference on reparations, set for March 1, will permit of its consideration along with the allies' proposals adopted at the recent Paris conference. (The Paris reparations terms call for payment by Germany of \$33,788,000,000 and a 12 per cent tax on exports during 42 years.)

Refusal to allow consideration of the German counter-proposal would result in Germany's absenting herself from the London conference, the newspaper declares it has learned. It adds that Germany would then suggest that the United States be called in as an arbitrator for the purpose of preventing the allies from adopting measures such as an invasion of the Ruhr district, which it declares would be looked upon by Germany as an act of war which would positively destroy the treaty of Versailles.

The suggestions that the United States be invited to mediate fails to arouse enthusiasm in the conservative industrialist organ, Die Post, which expresses fear that the American verdict in deciding on a sum between that submitted by Germany and the allies' figures would be more likely to incline toward the sum the allies are demanding.

Belief is expressed by Die Post that, even if this reputed offer by Germany were to be accepted, she would be affixing her signature to an obligation which would be impossible for her to meet.

Paris, Feb. 12.—Louis Loucheur, who, as minister of the liberated regions, assisted Premier Briand and the other members of the allies' supreme council in fixing the German reparations, explained his definition of Germany's payments in her exports.

"It seems that the terms of the variable annuity of 12 per cent on exports is imperfectly understood abroad," he said. "It never has been the question to create or oblige Germany to create a tax upon exports. What was sought was to establish Germany's capacity for payment. Therefore, we divided the annuity into two parts—one fixed, which is an irrevocable minimum that has been established upon figures close to, although below, those prepared by the American experts during the peace conference, which always have been regarded as the least Germany must pay. The second part of the annuity, called the variable, is to be calculated at the close of each six months' period by taking 12 per cent of the total exports during the six months."

SENATE O. K.'S FARMERS' LOAN

Approves \$100,000,000 Bonds to Provide Immediate Agricultural Credits.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The appropriation bill rider authorizing the secretary of the treasury to purchase \$100,000,000 of federal farm loan bonds to provide credits for farmers pending decision by the Supreme court in the litigation testing constitutionality of the farm loan law, was adopted by the senate. It now awaits approval by the house.

Quake Rocks Italian Town.

Rome, Feb. 12.—Earthquake shocks are reported from Farenano, on the Adriatic sea, about 100 miles south of Venice.

Allies Threaten Austria.

Vienna, Feb. 14.—Officials are reported to have sent a formal note to the Austrian government protesting against movements having for their object fusion of Austria and Germany. Reprisals are threatened.

40,000 Steel Men's Pay Cut.

Youngstown, O., Feb. 14.—A 20 per cent reduction in wages for independent steel plants of the Mahoning valley (O.) and the Shenango valley (Pa.) fields was announced here. More than 40,000 men are affected.

MANY BILLS KILLED

SIFTING COMMITTEES BUSILY ENGAGED IN BOTH BRANCHES OF THE LEGISLATURE

ONLY FEW HAVE BEEN SIGNED

With Over One-Third of Session Period Passed, There Still Remains Large Amount of Strenuous Work to Be Done

Lincoln.—The Nebraska state senate in the first twenty-two days of session was actively engaged to the extent of summarily executing forty-two bills, or an eighth of the total number introduced in that body. Senate bills numbered 349 at the close of the last day for introductions.

Most of these bills were put to death on reports of standing committees, without having ever seen the general file. The senate committee of the whole has been generous-minded, and only in rare instances has there been even a flurry in the consideration of a bill that has come forth with the standing committee's stamp of approval.

On the general file awaiting the action of the committee of the whole are twenty-one proposed measures, and twenty others have either passed on third reading or are awaiting that order of business, ready to be finally acted upon.

Four of the 617 house bills have sifted their way through the two chambers and have been signed by the governor, and about twenty others are on their way through the regular channels of passage in the upper house.

Three Welfare Bills Signed

Three of the fifty-three children's code commission bills on child welfare became laws with the signature of Governor S. R. McKelvie. The bills, which passed both houses, and which the governor has signed are:

Authorizing the judge in default divorce cases to make investigations of his own when the interest of minors is involved.

Extending the present law on cruelty to or abandonment of children from 14 years old in the statute to 16 years.

Are Against Boxing Bill

Despite the earnest plea of American Legion spokesmen for a legal enactment which would permit boxing exhibitions on a non-commercial basis and under state regulation, the house committee on miscellaneous subjects voted to report for indefinite postponement the Legion's boxing bill.

Representatives Palmer, Ruddy, Mears and Barbour have signed a minority report on the bill, and the house will be asked to place it on general file.

Regulate Size of Bread Loaf

One pound as the minimum weight for loaves of bread received the final approval of the Nebraska representatives in the passage of the Smith bill by a vote of 83 to 5. The bill allows larger loaves to be baked and sold in weights of 1½ and 2 pounds and higher multiples of one pound. It permits one ounce overweight, but nothing under. No attempt is made to fix prices.

Will Test Sigan Language Law

On the same day set for a special hearing before the senate committee on education on the Norval bill to repeal the Sigan foreign language law, an appeal was filed in the supreme court of Nebraska from a conviction of a German teacher under that law in Hamilton county. Should the Sigan act be done away with, it would have the effect of annulling this conviction and any others obtained.

Would Have Teachers Take Oath

The senate has taken favorable action on a bill which requires every one connected with educational institutions, public and private, to take an oath to respect and support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of Nebraska and to obey laws. The bill applies to every one connected with the management, discipline and instructing force in public and private institutions of learning.

Allen Land Bill Up Again

Representatives McFarland, Snow and Murphy have signed a minority report on the Japanese land ownership bill, which the judiciary committee of the house voted to recommend for indefinite postponement.

Kill Free Pass Bill

The senate has killed a bill introduced by Senator Hoagland for the purpose of permitting railroads to give reduced rates to ministers of the gospel and to give free passes to a lot of others, all of which is now prohibited by the provisions of the anti-pass law.

Ask New Game Laws

Nebraska fishermen have recommended to the standing committee on game and fish legislation of the state legislature that fishing with a hook and line be permitted the year around. Other requests by sportsmen are: open season on chickens from September 16 to December 31; no size limit on bullheads, crappies and sunfish; open season for doves, geese, ducks and all other water fowl; closed season on rabbits from April 1 to September 16, and increase of penalty for violation of the state game laws.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

Blair will vote March 3 on a municipal ice plant.

William Koth, for over 50 years a resident of Pierce county, is dead.

H. R. Harrington, a Warnerville merchant, dropped dead of heart disease.

A community club of fifty charter members has been organized at Wood Lake.

Card parties are being given in Albia to raise funds to help pay for street paving.

Boys of the State Industrial School at Kearney contributed \$82.30 to the Chinese fund.

The State Retail Jewelers' association will convene at Omaha February 23 and 24.

The price of eggs at Norfolk stores dropped to 23 cents per dozen one day last week.

Approximately 20,000 acres have been leased in Thayer county for oil drilling purposes.

More than half the townships of Hall county have completed farm bureau organization.

Beatrice will vote on a proposition to return to the old mayor and council system of government.

The state biennial session of the Woodmen of the World will be held at Columbus April 18 and 19.

The \$9,000 bond issue for the erection of a new school at Morrill has been approved by the state.

The Nebraska Retail Jewelers' association will hold the annual convention in Omaha Feb. 23-24.

Ninety conversions resulted from the revival meetings just closed at the M. E. church at Franklin.

Callaway authorities are fighting the most violent smallpox epidemic in the history of that section.

Farmers in Thayer county have bought thousands of dollars' worth of surplus army harness and saddles.

Airplanes will be added to the auto exhibits at the annual automobile show at Holdrege the first week in April.

The printing of the Nebraska supreme court records has been awarded to a Columbia, Mo., printing house.

Ashland will vote in the spring on the questions of pool halls or no pool halls, Sunday baseball and card clubs.

Fire of undetermined origin at Thurston totally destroyed the building and stock of the Thurston grocery.

A pipe organ, said to be the largest outside Omaha and Lincoln, will be installed in the Temple theater at McCook.

Michael Schaefer, a Platte county pioneer, is dead at his home at St. Bernard. He was the father of twenty-two children.

Seven hundred and fifty-one carload shipments of freight were handled by the Union Pacific from Lodge Pole during 1920.

An epidemic of mange has broken out among horses on the Indian reservation in Burt county, in the vicinity of Decatur.

Broken Bow is agitating a Rotary club. If organized, it will be the smallest city in the United States to boast a club.

The Waterloo Presbyterian church, erected at a cost of \$11,000 by the joint efforts of the community, was dedicated last Sunday.

Reports sent out from Beatrice to the effect that there is an epidemic of smallpox there is strenuously denied by the board of health.

The Peru post of the American Legion raised money to furnish headquarters by presenting the war drama, "The Camouflage of Shirley."

Mrs. Nine Huff of Nebraska City was seriously injured when she forced a pair of scissors into her body as she fell to the floor in a fainting spell.

The price of eggs in Norfolk and other towns in the vicinity dropped to 23 cents a dozen in a week.

Burglars entered the sleeping room of two young ladies—Misses Josephine Eckert and Katie Bayel—at Falls City, and cut off their hair while they slept.

Burglars last week raided nearly every business house in Guide Rock, including stores, pool halls and garages, carrying away cash and other goods of value.

Edward J. Crowley, private at the Fort Omaha balloon school, is dead from injuries received when he collided with another skater while skating at a local park. His skull was fractured.

Hogs hit the \$8 a hundred mark Thursday at South Omaha, with a few selling as high as \$8.90. The run of hogs reached a total of 13,500 head, making a total of the four days of the week of 59,805 head as compared with 62,089 for the same days last week and 31,922 head for the same period last year, showing a gain in receipts this year of 31,622 for the four days.

Ed Bolton, a well driller of Bloomfield, has discovered a "steel vein" in Nebraska, he has notified Governor McKelvie. He says a test of the steel proved it to be of the highest quality.

Dr. R. H. Kerr of Albia and Dr. F. A. Brewster, of Beaver City, made a trip by airplane to Fallsdale, a distance of 120 miles, to consult with other physicians in the case of the critical illness of patient at the latter place.

Minster High school students presented the members of last year's basketball team, champions of western Nebraska, with watch fobs mounted with gold basketballs.

A five-day week has been begun at Fairbury for section employees of all railroads.

Citizens of Milford have voted bonds for the erection of a municipal electric lighting plant.

Ponca will continue the county seat of Dixon county, having won over the town of Allen, at an election held last week.

Jefferson county schools are engaging in elimination contests prior to the county spelling contest to be held at Fairbury April 9.

Roy C. Pulver, 17, is dead at Albia as a result of illness brought on by an attack of hemorrhoids which began a short time ago.

Mrs. Charlotte Lyons, 101 years old, is dead at Seward, following a peculiar illness of several weeks, during which time she lay in a stupor.

A twenty-piece band has been formed at Lodge Pole under the direction of Louis DeBrunner, well known throughout the state as a director.

Forty-seven carloads of hogs, purchased from Buffalo county farmers and stockmen on the Callaway line, were shipped from Kearney last week.

Rev. Father Lynch, 75, pastor of the Catholic church of Wood River for 36 years, is dead. He held pastorates at Plattsburgh and North Platte.

A new record for a day's freight shipments from Cozad was established last week when sixty cars of sheep, hogs and alfalfa were started to market.

Plans to relieve unemployment by the construction of several new business blocks and many residences have been made by the Sidney Chamber of Commerce.

A contract for a new court house at Schuyler to cost \$148,000, upon which construction will be started a year from March 1, has been let by the county commissioners.

Forty citizens of Wabash have petitioned the Nebraska railway commission to require the Missouri Pacific and the Western Union Telephone company to reinstate its telegraph instruments removed February 3.

The Congress of Surgeons will be held in Omaha March 3-4. This is expected to be one of the largest meetings of the year and will bring surgeons from all parts of the United States.

Lieut. Gov. P. A. Barrows has been excused for two weeks by a unanimous vote of the senate to take an official trip east as commander-in-chief of the National Sons of Veterans' association.

S. F. Heckman, president of the First State bank of Hickman, was found dead in his barn, with a shotgun lying beside him, circumstances indicating an act of suicide, but no cause is known.

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the Harbin block, the best structure in Nelson, causing a loss of \$35,000. The Masonic lodge, occupying the upper story, lost its entire paraphernalia.

The State Board of Control has just purchased 200 pairs of work shoes for the Nebraska penitentiary at \$3.05 a pair, which the board says is about \$1.50 lower a pair than at the peak of prices, wholesale.

In a communication to the Creighton university at Omaha the State Bar association has announced the addition of a second collegiate year to the requirement for entrance to law schools.

The Omaha-Chicago division of the air mail service lost one of its pioneer flyers when Pilot H. H. Rowe, with Pilot W. L. Carroll and Mechanician R. B. Hill, was cremated Wednesday evening in a German junker plane, which crashed to earth and burst into flames at La Crosse, Wis.

The oldest sheriff in Nebraska, and perhaps in the United States, is L. A. Williams of Loup City, who is eighty years old and has been guarding the public peace and order in one capacity or another for nearly half that time.

Dr. Wilson of the state board of health, investigating the epidemic which has placed over fifty homes at Blair under quarantine, pronounces the disease a form of smallpox. Schools and churches may be closed.

The Nebraska college of agriculture mails out an average of 10,000 free copies of agricultural bulletins each month to persons requesting them. The publications deal with practically every phase of agriculture. Copies of these publications also are distributed through county farm bureaus. They consist of circulars and bulletins issued by the Nebraska agricultural experiment station, the agricultural extension service and the United States department of agriculture at Washington.

The smallest complete airplane in America made a non-stop flight from Grand Island to Omaha, Tuesday. It weighs only 335 pounds, has a wing span of 24 feet and measures 14½ feet from front to rear. It was built by A. H. Fetters and E. N. Greevy of Omaha.

The official board of the Presbyterian church at Steele City has extended a call to the Rev. Frederick Knauer, who is at present a teacher in the Hastings college. The other churches at Steele City have disbanded and the church-going people have united in supporting but one church.

Stockmen of Arthur have shipped more cattle and hogs in the past two weeks than for many months before. Nearly all has gone to South Omaha.

Holding him over a sixty-foot fence and threatening to drop him into space and crush his life, a highwayman robbed Carl Hartman, coal heaver for the Northwestern railroad at Norfolk.

The Ashland volunteer fire department, since the receipt of its new chemical, ladders, hose and other apparatus, is said to be the best equipped force of any town of similar size in the state.